



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCCA Annual Conference Leads to Renewed Calls for Action

Upon concluding it was imperative to convene an in-person meeting to discuss the various challenges of 2020, the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) held its annual fall meeting in New Orleans, LA. Topics ranged from civil unrest to election security, the importance of continuity of leadership and criminal justice reform.

Through the work of the MCCA Intelligence Commanders Group (ICG), an after-action review focused on this summer's protests and civil unrest was approved for public release. From May 25th to July 31st, 8,700 total protest events occurred in 68 major cities and counties. This level of activity was unprecedented and while the majority of protests were lawful and peaceful, 79 percent of reporting agencies experienced at least one protest that involved some level of violence and in cities where violence did occur, assaults on officers, looting and arson were the most common criminal activities.

While discussing lessons learned and best practices, the membership expressed concern regarding efforts by local elected officials to restrict the use of less than lethal tools. Allegations that law enforcement agencies overuse less than lethal tools are simply unfounded and data from the ICG's after-action review illustrates that law enforcement's use of less than lethal tools was measured and proportionate to the violence and civil disobedience they encountered. Given that many MCCA members expect activity in their jurisdictions surrounding the November 3rd election, it's imperative that law enforcement maintain access to tools and resources necessary to quell violence and protect life and property.

In keeping with the MCCA's call for an approach to police reform that is evidence based, thoughtful, and comprehensive, the membership voted to establish a Police Reform Working Group. The Working Group has been tasked with analyzing and editing the MCCA's police reform principles, originally issued in June, and as part of this review, the Working Group will take a deep dive and make recommendations related to continuity of leadership, law enforcement operations, transparency, and accountability. The chiefs reaffirmed their commitment to enact meaningful reform and remain a leader in national policy discussions surrounding reform.

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The Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada. The MCCA provides a unique forum for urban chiefs, sheriffs and other law enforcement executives to share ideas, experiences and strategies. MCCA provides a collaborative forum for the advancement of public safety through innovation, research, policy development, government engagement, community outreach, and leadership development.

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